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# Insights into hours worked, March 2022

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**Source:** [Labour Force, Australia, March 2022](#)

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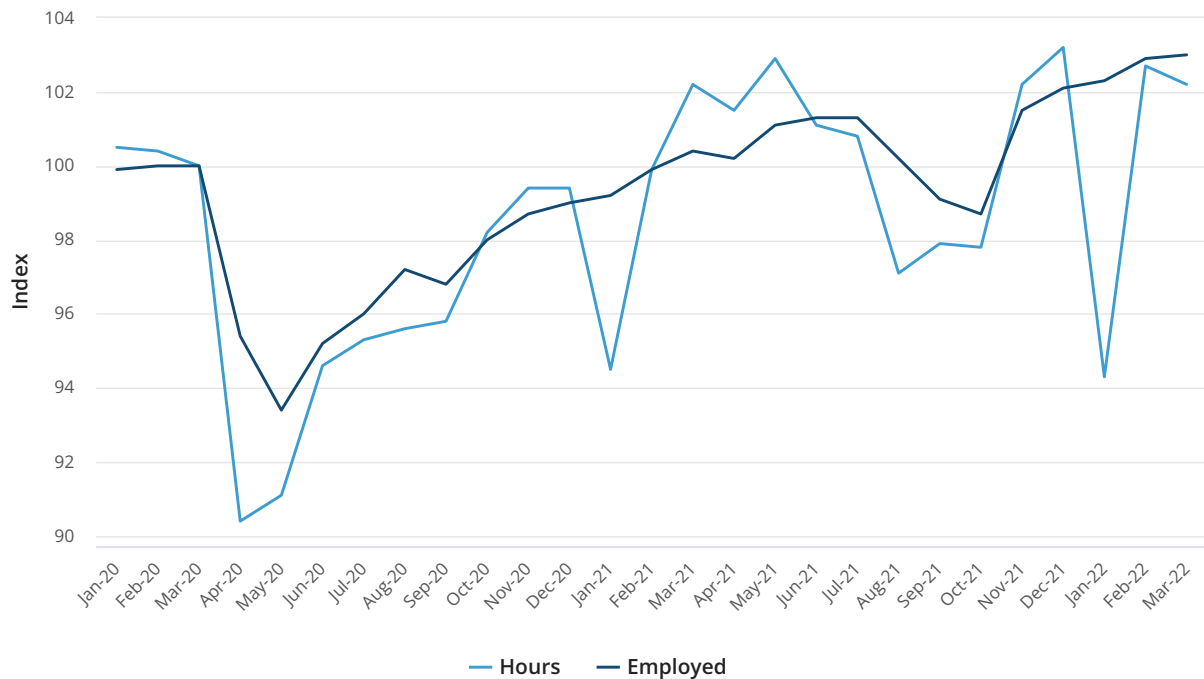
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The ABS will continue to monitor changes in hours worked and provide additional analysis when relevant.

Hours worked decreased by 0.6% (in seasonally adjusted terms) between February and March 2022, while employment increased by 0.1%. Throughout the pandemic, the hours worked series shows larger short-term changes than in the employed series, given that employees may be away from paid work for a short period without losing their job.

Chart 1 shows that after the fall in March 2022, hours worked remained 1.0% below the level reached in December 2021 and 0.8% below the pre-Delta COVID variant high of May 2021.

Chart 1: Hours worked and employment index, Seasonally adjusted (March 2020 = 100.0)

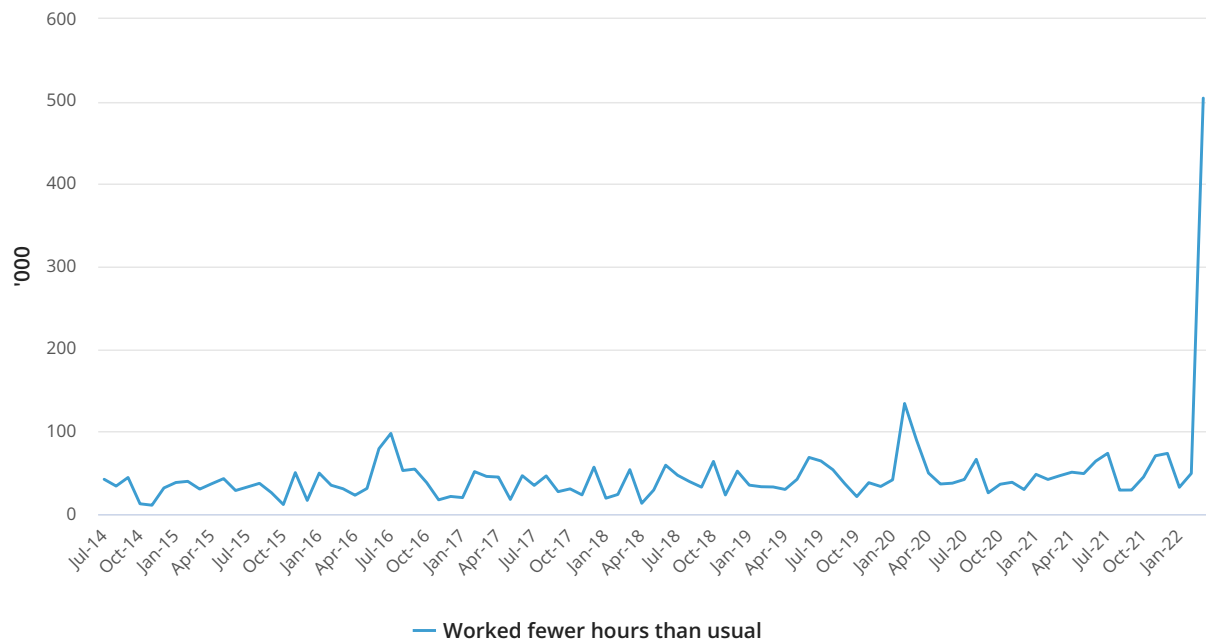


Source: Labour Force, Australia Tables 1 and 19

## People working fewer hours due to bad weather or plant breakdown

Chart 2 shows a large increase in people working fewer hours due to bad weather or plant breakdown in March 2022 as floods affected New South Wales and Queensland.

**Chart 2: Employed people working fewer hours than usual due to bad weather or plant breakdown, Original**

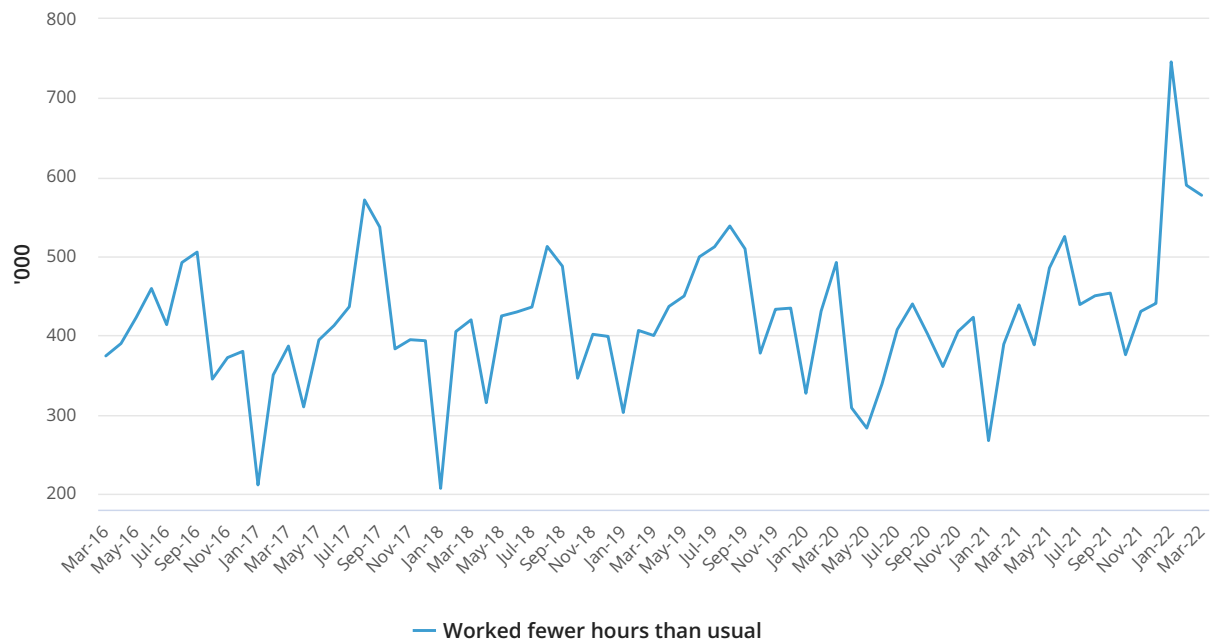


Source: Labour Force, Australia Data Cube EM2a

## **People working fewer hours due to their own illness, personal injury or sick leave**

Chart 3 shows an elevated number of people working fewer hours due to the continuing disruption from the omicron variant.

**Chart 3: Employed people working fewer hours due to their own illness, personal injury or sick leave, Original**

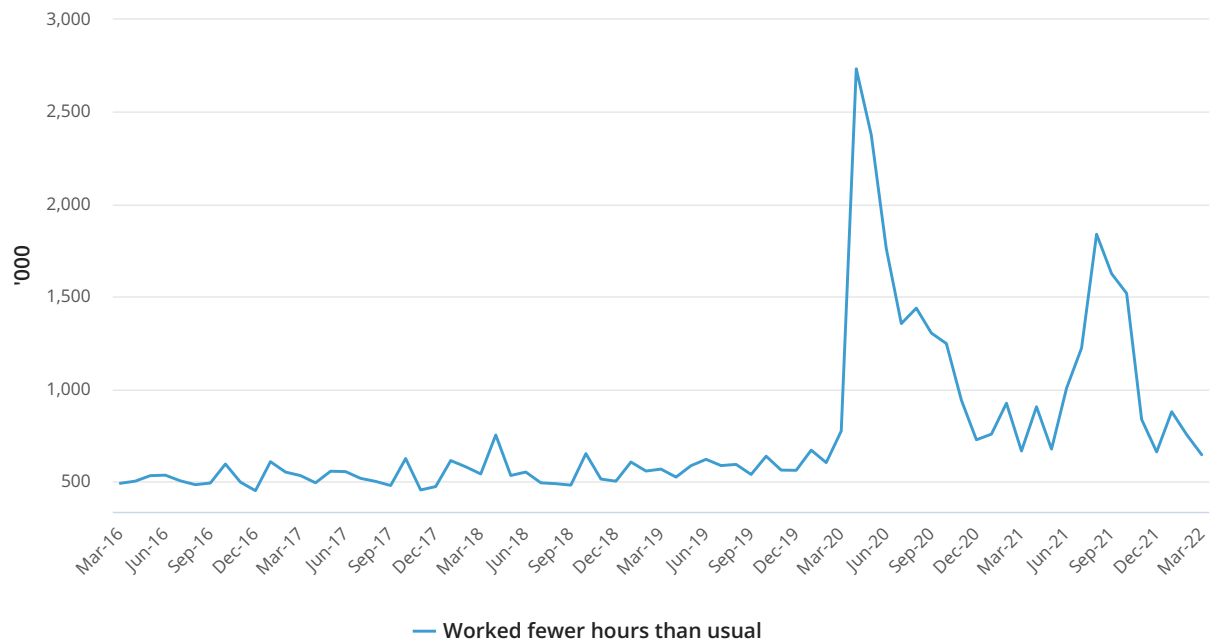


Source: Labour Force, Australia Data Cube EM2a

## People working fewer hours due to economic and other reasons

Chart 4 shows the number of people working fewer hours for economic and other reasons is now below pre-pandemic levels.

Chart 4: No work, not enough work available or stood down and worked fewer hours than usual for other reasons, Original



Source: Labour Force, Australia Data Cube EM2a